



KIDCARE UPDATE **July 2002**

Behavioral Health Partnership Report:

The release of the Behavioral Health Partnership Report in April 2002 has yielded much interest in KidCare throughout the state as well as nationally. Viewed as an innovative, statewide model for restructuring behavioral health services for children and their families, KidCare represents not just an influx of service dollars and new programs, but a philosophical shift in the manner in which treatment is delivered. Community-based services, family as full partners, and cultural competency are hallmark features that distinguish KidCare from previous treatment efforts. Thus, KidCare represents both services and new processes for delivering quality care for children and families.

In addition, as the report reflects, by July 2003, DCF in partnership with the Department of Social Services and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, will be responsible for managing the public behavioral health service system and programs. A contract with an Administrative Services Organization (ASO) will support and enhance the three state agencies' management and accountability for quality services. It is our firm belief that by managing behavioral health services, we will be better able to offer more creative and comprehensive services and capture additional federal reimbursement to match the money the State is contributing toward these much needed services.

Regional "Kick-Offs":

All five DCF regions have held "Kick-Off" events heralding the initiation of Mobile Crisis teams, and additional care coordination services. These events have been hosted by Commissioner Ragaglia, who acknowledged and publicly stated her appreciation for the support KidCare has received from Governor Rowland. The Commissioner also recognized regional legislators, local service providers and other supporters of children's mental health services. In each region, the strengths of local youth groups have been highlighted through performances and talent demonstrations. Participants have left feeling better informed about regional activities related to new services.

KidCare Training Institute:

Regional KidCare trainings continue to be held and are well attended by DCF staff, community providers, parents and other stakeholders. To date, over 500 people have attended training.

The 5-day core curriculum is designed to assist stakeholders in understanding the principles and philosophy behind community based treatment. Therefore, participants not only receive specific information about children's behavioral health issues and the system of care model, but also are exposed to team building activities that help all involved understand treatment planning, community collaboration, and problem solving from the perspectives of each participant.

The Connecticut Community KidCare Training Curriculum was a featured presentation in the National Systems of Care Training Institutes held in Washington, D.C., July 10 – 14. Congratulations to Curriculum Author Cliff Davis, KidCare Training Institute Coordinator, Tim Marshall, Parent Trainer Jennifer Klonoski and Judith Meyers from the Child Health and Development Institute for highlighting one of Connecticut's finest contributions thus far to the national system of care movement.

For additional information regarding regional training opportunities, please access the following link: **FAVOR (Statewide Family Advocacy Network)**:

Connecticut sent a delegation to the 2002 System of Care Training Institutes in Washington, DC. The contingent included providers, DCF staff, Training Institute presenters and families. Through DCF supported funding to the statewide family advocacy organization known as FAVOR (Family Advocacy Organization For Children's Mental Health), 11 parents of children and youth with serious emotional disturbance were able to participate in this biennial training conference.

Conference attendees indicated that this training event was very informative and inspiring. FAVOR and its member agencies (i.e., NAMI-CT, Padres Abriendo Puertas, African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, and Families United for Children's Mental Health), will build upon the excitement and enthusiasm from this conference by convening a meeting with the parents who attended to discuss next steps. This meeting will likely occur in the next couple of weeks.

In addition, DCF's Mental Health Division will be working with FAVOR to host focus groups throughout the state. DCF plans to partner with FAVOR in the development and convening of focus groups that will gather parent's feedback on the use of KidCare services (e.g., Emergency Mobile Services (EMS), In-Home, etc.) The details of this project are in the works and additional information will be forth coming.

Multiculturalism Sub-Committee:

The Department is a member of the state's Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (CBHAC). This Committee meets the first Friday of the month to promote and enhance the provision of behavioral health services for all children in this state. The CBHAC has developed a Multiculturalism Sub-Committee. This Sub-Committee has been meeting to offer recommendations and strategies that will facilitate the provision of culturally competent services to children with complex behavioral health needs and their families. Using funds from the federal Mental Health Block Grant, the Multiculturalism Sub-Committee will be working with the System of Care Community Collaboratives to develop local strategies, activities, and opportunities to better serve culturally and linguistically diverse children and their families. The members of the Multiculturalism Sub-Committee, which includes providers, parents and DCF Regional and Central Office staff, will be partnering with the DCF Regional Systems Coordinators to spearhead this important initiative.